

ACTION
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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

535

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ACTION NEA-07

JIDDA 02917 271419Z

1525

INFO	OCT-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-15	CIAE-00
	ICA-15	H-01	NSC-05	NSAE-00	HA-06	L-02	TRSE-00
	PM-09	PA-02	OMB-01	SAL-01	DEPT-10	SSN-02	SR-00
	MCE-00	SPRS-02	/113 W				DEPT-00

P 271418Z APR 81
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3100
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JIDDA 02917

E. O. N/A

TQGS: MASS. SA, US

SUBJECT: PRINCE SULTAN ON PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS TO SELL
F-15 ITEMS AND AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. AS PUBLISHED IN OKAZ APRIL 22 AND REPEATED IN THE
LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS THE NEXT DAY, PRINCE SULTAN,
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
THAT THE F-15 ITEMS AND AWACS SALES WILL BE APPROVED.
SULTAN, IN REMARKS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ROYAL
SAUDI AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN RIYADH, STRESSED
THAT IN SEEKING MODERN WEAPONS SYSTEMS THE KINGDOM HAS
NO AGGRESSIVE OR HOSTILE INTENT TOWARDS ANYONE BUT HAS
A NEED FOR THESE SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO ENSURE DEFENSE
OF THE KINGDOM AND ITS ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES.

2. SULTAN ALSO EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER THE
PRESIDENT'S DECISION AS RENEWED EVIDENCE OF US CONFIDENCE
IN THE KINGDOM AND OF THE SPECIAL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
SIMILARLY, SULTAN WELCOMED THE READINESS OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM TO SUPPLY WEAPONS AND AIRCRAFT, INDICATED BY
PRIME MINISTER THATCHER DURING HER RECENT VISIT. SULTAN
ALSO INDICATED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, THE NEXT STATE
VISITOR, MIGHT RAISE THE SUBJECT OF ARMS TRANSFERS
BUT SAG WOULD NOT INITIATE SUCH DISCUSSION IN ORDER TO
AVOID EMBARRASSING A GUEST. PLACKE

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